

might be distant, as I did not know the country, this being my first trip through it.

The extreme drouth of the past season is destroying great numbers of cattle and horses in many parts of California and food for Vultures is therefore abundant. Bitter experience has increased the natural wariness of the species and now it is by a fortunate accident if the collector obtains a specimen. Unless an epidemic or some other disaster overtakes the species its extermination will not occur in our day.—F. STEPHENS, *Witch Creek, San Diego Co., Cal.*

**Clark's Nutcracker in Eastern Missouri.**—On the 15th of November last (1894) I had occasion to drop into the establishment of a prominent taxidermist, who handed me a bird to identify which proved a fine adult specimen of *Picicorvus columbianus*, Clark's Nutcracker, an extreme western species, never known to have been seen in this locality before. The specimen in question had been killed about four miles east of this city (Kansas City, Mo.) by a party while hunting in what is known as Big Blue bottom, formerly a heavily timbered district, though considerably thinned out now. The taxidermist was not positive as to the date of capture, but thought it was Oct. 28, or thereabout. He asked the gentleman who brought the specimen to him if any others like it were observed and he stated none others had been seen. Unfortunately he did not take the gentleman's name and address, so I had no opportunity of interviewing him personally. Prof. Dixon, the taxidermist, says he will mount this specimen, and probably send it to the State University at Columbia, Mo.

There was also brought into this same establishment a splendid specimen of the Acadian Owl (*Nyctala acadica*), killed by flying against a plate glass window on Broadway Avenue, this city, and picked up by a passer-by and brought in to be mounted. This is the second specimen of this diminutive species of the Owl family which had come into his hands from this immediate locality.—JOHN A. BRYANT, *1221 Olive St., Kansas City, Mo.*

**Chats reared by Song Sparrows.**—On June 8, 1894, while collecting about three miles north of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co., N. Y., I found a nest of the Chat (*Icteria virens*) containing a set of four eggs. They were packed away with some others I had collected and taken home, but on attempting to blow one I found that they were heavily incubated, the embryo being so large that it would have been impossible to remove it. In a small hedge near the house at which I was staying was a nest of the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza fasciata*) containing a set of four very pretty eggs, but I did not like to rob the bird, as it was quite tame, and I had watched the building of the nest with a good deal of interest; so I thought of a scheme by which I could obtain the set and still give Melos-